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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

DEC 30 1996

In the Matter of)
)
Implementation of the Pay)
Telephone Reclassification and)
Compensation Provisions of the)
Telecommunications Act of 1996)
)
BellSouth Comparably Efficient)
Interconnection Plan for)
Payphone Service Providers)

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC Docket No. 96-128

AT&T'S COMMENTS ON BELL SOUTH'S
COMPARABLY EFFICIENT INTERCONNECTION PLAN

Pursuant to the Commission's Public Notice released November 27, 1996,¹ AT&T Corp. ("AT&T") hereby submits these comments on BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s ("BellSouth's") comparably efficient interconnection ("CEI") plan for payphone service providers.²

In its CEI plan, BellSouth states generally that it will purchase and use the same tariffed services that are available to other providers of payphone services, in

¹ Pleading Cycle Established for Comments on BellSouth's Comparably Efficient Interconnection Plan for Payphone Service Providers, Public Notice, CC Docket No. 96-128, DA 96-2005, released November 27, 1996.

² The Commission required the Bell Operating Companies ("BOCs") to file CEI plans in Implementation of the Pay Telephone Reclassification and Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Report and Order, FCC 96-388, released September 20, 1996 ("Payphone Order"); and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 96-349, released November 8, 1996.

accordance with Section 276(b)(1)(C) of the Act. BellSouth further states that it will satisfy the Commission's additional requirement that the BOCs meet the nonstructural safeguards standards adopted for their enhanced service offerings in Computer Inquiry III.³ In these comments, AT&T seeks clarification of certain aspects of BellSouth's service that are not specifically addressed in the CEI plan.

First, BellSouth's CEI plan and accompanying tariff pages are silent as to the treatment of network-based functionalities for inmate payphones. However, it is AT&T's understanding that BellSouth owns and operates inmate payphones that use certain network-based functionalities that are not currently available under tariff to operators of non-BellSouth payphones. To ensure that BellSouth is not treating its affiliated inmate payphones differently than the inmate payphones of other providers, the Commission should require BellSouth to set forth expressly in its CEI plan and tariffs the network-based functionalities for inmate payphones that are currently available and make them available to all payphone service providers.⁴ Moreover,

³ See Amendment of Section 64.702 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations (Computer Inquiry III), Report and Order, 104 F.C.C.2d 958 (1986).

⁴ "The safeguards the Commission adopted in Computer III and ONA include: (1) nondiscriminatory access to network features and functionalities [These]

(footnote continued on following page)

BellSouth should state explicitly that it will obtain those functionalities for its own inmate payphones at the same rates and under the same terms and conditions as are available to other payphone services providers.

BellSouth should also make clear that its SmartLine Services for Public Telephone Access Service will be made available on a non-discriminatory basis to all payphone service providers. This service provides certain functions, such as coin signaling and coin rating, to customer provided payphones that are commonly referred to as "dumb sets." Despite the statement in BellSouth's CEI plan (pp. 5-6) that "[t]ariffs for this service are in effect in all of [its] states," the tariffs themselves state only that SmartLine service will be provided from central offices where "facilities are available."⁵ At a minimum, BellSouth should be required to amend its CEI plan to clarify that

(footnote continued from previous page)

nonstructural safeguards must be applied to meet our obligation under the 1996 Act." Payphone Order, para. 200 (citations omitted). The Commission also noted that "any basic services provided by a BOC to its payphone affiliate must be available on a nondiscriminatory basis to other payphone providers." Id.

⁵ See, e.g., BellSouth's tariff for Florida, Section A7.8.1.B., Original Page 13, attached as Appendix B to BellSouth's CEI Plan.

SmartLine service will be available to non-BellSouth payphone service providers at every central office where such service is provided to BellSouth's payphone service affiliate.

Finally, BellSouth's CEI plan does not address BellSouth's proposed treatment of uncollectibles due to fraud. To the extent that BellSouth establishes a policy of foregoing uncollectibles due to fraud for its payphone service affiliates, the same treatment must be accorded to non-affiliates, regardless of whether such practice appears in BellSouth's tariffs. In order to ensure such nondiscriminatory treatment, BellSouth should be required to modify its CEI plan to address this issue directly.

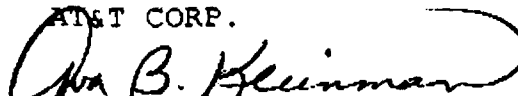
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For the reasons stated above, before BellSouth's
CEI plan is approved, BellSouth should clarify its plan
consistent with AT&T's comments above.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 30, 1996

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rena Martens, do hereby certify that on this 30th day of December, 1996, a copy of the foregoing "AT&T's Comments on BellSouth's Comparably Efficient Interconnection Plan" was mailed by U.S. first class mail, postage prepaid, to the parties listed below.

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